

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 H-03

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 PC-04 AGR-20

PM-07 DODE-00 /205 R

DRAFTED BY AF/N:DLMACK:EW

7/16/73 EXT 20498

APPROVED BY AF/N:JJBLAKE

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R 161530Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138732

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, MR

SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MAURITANIA AND US -
MAURITANIA RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NOUAKCHOTT, AMBASSADOR
ABDALLAH CALLED ON BLAKE (AF/N) JULY 12 TO REPORT ON
CURRENT MAURITANIA SCENE. ABDALLAH SAID THAT FINANCIAL
AND MONETARY CHANGES HAVE CREATED SOME PROBLEMS, BUT
THAT LONG RANGE EFFECT WILL BE GREATER STABILITY. HE
NOTED THAT OULD DADDAH HAS SPOKEN PUBLICLY OF DIFFICULTIES
WHICH MAURITANIAN PEOPLE WILL FACE DURING TRANSITION
PERIOD. THERE MAY BE IMPORT SCARCITIES AS RESULT NEW
RESTRICTION AGAINST TRADE CONTROLLED BY FRENCH MIDDLEMEN
AND BY FOREIGNERS POSING AS COMMERCIAL AGENTS OF MAURI-
TANIA. GIRM WILL SUPPORT CONSORTIA OF PRIVATE MAURITANIAN
TRADERS SEEKING TO BUY DIRECTLY FROM PRODUCERS, ESPECIALLY
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IN UK, RATHER THAN RECEIVING SOME GOODS AS SO-CALLED

FRENCH IMPORTS VIA MARSEILLES. ABDALLAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW THIS WOULD EVOLVE INTO STATE TRADING COMPANIES.

2. ABDALLAH DESCRIBED DISCUSSION WITH OULD DADDAH RE US-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS. PRESIDENT STATES THAT HIS POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WELL KNOWN AND HE WOULD ADHERE TO THEM. NONETHELESS, PRESIDENT HOPES FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH US, ESPECIALLY IN COMMERCIAL FIELD. SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF SUGAR AGREEMENT WITH LANG ENGINEERING WOULD BE GOOD FIRST STEP AND US PRIVATE INVESTMENTS WELCOME IN OTHER FIELDS. IN SUM, DESPITE NEW ECONOMIC DEPARTURE, SAID ABDALLAH, MAURITANIA CONTINUES ON STABLE COURSE.

3. BLAKE INDICATED OUR PLEASURE AT FAVORABLE EVOLUTION OF US-MAURITANIA RELATIONS AND OUR RESPECT FOR OULD DADDAH. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES ARE OBSTACLE TO FRUITFUL RELATIONS.

4. ABDALLAH SAID THAT GIRM GREATLY APPRECIATED USG DROUGHT RELIEF AND WOULD PROVIDE INFO ON BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM PROBLEMS. BLAKE NOTED RECEIPT OF MAURITANIAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND STATED THAT WE HAD MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WOULD TRY TO GIVE PROMPT REPLY. RUSH

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